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file

(U) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS FOR COMMUTATION OF SARAGОВI SENTENCE-----

AZ 72A

Senator Heinz and Congressman Gilman have written President Videla requesting the

commutation of the 6 year ~~14 month~~ sentence of Horacio Oscar Saragovi (269/78/1),

Saragovi, *terrorist,*
a 17 year old ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ was arrested in May 1976 and sentenced 14 months later

to 6 years in prison for breaking a window, throwing pamphlets and hitting a police-

The latter charge was not in the original indictment
man with his purse. Due to Argentine law, he received credit for only half of the

14 months he served before he was sentenced towards the 6 years sentence imposed by

an Army military court. The extremely severe penalty and a number of alleged procedural

errors in the case (the charge of striking the policeman was added just before the

trial and supported by the testimony of the janitor from the policemen's building

who happened to be walking by).

The Saragovi family has a number of relatives in the United States. Mrs. Saragovi
will travel to the United States in early May in order to generate increased interest

in her son's case. The severity of the military court's sentence, the refusal of the

Supreme Court to review several serious alleged procedural errors in the military

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Court's handling of the case, the weakness of the evidence and the age of Saragovi have created pressures within Argentina and the United States for the commutation of Saragovi's sentence and his release after having served three years in prison.